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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT [redacted]

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Absence of Biological Installations in Central Asia/Confidential Status of Medical Data/Soviet Army Engineers' Research and Development

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SUPPLEMENT TO [redacted]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

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1. As of December 1939 and later there were no biological installations in Central Asia. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] the medical section of the headquarters of each Soviet military district did have maps which showed epidemic areas. These maps were not publicly available. Local civilian authorities, such as the health department of an "oblast" gave such medical data to civilian doctors practicing in the area and the civilian doctors in turn worked in cooperation with local military doctors on certain matters.

3. In regard to the general subject of Soviet Army Engineers' research and development activities, only the military railroad troops (UpVOSO - Upravleniya Voennikh Soobsheniya, ie, Military Transportation Administration) developed and had in their possession bridges utilizing metal or wooden spans. These bridges were designed to replace destroyed railroad bridges. Such bridges were controlled by the railroads and by UpVOSO.

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4. The Soviet Army had only floating bridges and as late as mid-1942 there were no plans for other types. The three types of floating bridges were: (a) utilizing metal pontoons - this was the heaviest type of bridge and could carry medium tanks (about 25 tons); if four floating metal pontoons were fastened together they could carry the heaviest tank, ie up to 60 tons; if the current was slow the regular floating pontoon bridge could accommodate heavy tanks (b) utilizing folding plywood boats made in several parts and which supported a wooden bridge surface - could take a medium tank; (c) a bridge floating on rubber boats - this type was called the A-3 and could support a medium tank; it could carry such a tank more easily however if several of the rubber boats were tied together and the tank was floated across. 25X1

5. The Soviet Army Corps of Engineers was called the "Voenno Inzhinernoye Vedomstvo"; Engineering Troops were called "Inzhinernii Voiski". The Engineering Troops had two primary categories, ie, the Sappers and the Engineering Troops of the Rear. The Sappers were troops that accompanied the basic arms, such as the infantry, cavalry and artillery, in the field. The Sappers built bridges, roads, fortifications, provided camouflage, engaged in demolitions, and laid mine fields. The Engineering Troops of the Rear (Til) included construction battalions, water supply units, camouflage units, and electro-technical troops. The last named were not concerned with communications, but worked with portable power plants, electrified wire obstacles, and such matters. The Engineering Troops of the Rear also included an important type of unit which was referred to as the Bridging Troops. These troops were concerned with the larger military bridges.

6. The Soviet Army Engineers had their own academy called the Military Engineering Academy imeni Kuibyshev (Voenno Inzhinernoya Akademiya imeni Kuibysheva) in Moscow. As of 1941 this Academy had the following three faculties: military, mines and demolitions, and construction. 25X1

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7. The testing grounds of the Soviet Army Engineers was located about 35 km west from Moscow at a railway station 25X1
on the railway to Riga. The testing grounds were called the "Voenno Inzhinerni Ispitatelni Polygon". The testing grounds had a construction 25X1
bureau (Konstruktorskoye Bureau - KB). The KB was made up of engineers and laboratories At that time the KB had a staff of approximately 35 engineers. However, if a specialist on a certain subject happened to be working in a factory as a technical official, then the work would be done at that factory, utilizing the local military representative 25X1
at that plant. Work could also be given to a specialist who happened to be an instructor at the Military Engineering Academy.
the laboratories 25X1
were: electro-technical (dealing with problems of the use of electricity in military equipment); and several other laboratories which were concerned with demolitions, the study of foreign mines, and water supply (drilling water wells, filters, water tanks). There was also a camouflage panel. The 25X1
KB either developed engineering equipment from its own ideas or tried to do so if asked by pertinent authorities. It also at times worked with the KB 25X1
of some appropriate factory.

8. Attached to the Soviet Army General Staff was a Technical Committee (Technichiski Komitet). It considered technical problems for the whole Soviet Army. The Committee was very large and was divided into numerous other technical committees separated by arm and service. For example, there would be a technical committee for artillery and also a technical committee for engineers. As the Frunze Military Academy was the tactical laboratory for the whole army, the chiefs of the various "kafedri" (faculties) were members of the technical committee. Other members of the Technical Committee were the chiefs of the various arms and services of the Soviet

Army and the chiefs of the various services academies. The Chairman of the Technical Committee was the Army Chief of Staff. The Technical Committee could also include as temporary members specialists on various weapons from the Army General Staff. Each subcommittee had its own secretariat of specialists. It was the Technical Committee for the Army Engineers, which was under the over-all Technical Committee, which gave problems for study and solution to the Engineering Polygon.

9. The military authorities were not interested in material requirements for military equipment production. The Army General Staff decided upon the amount and distribution of military equipment while the "small" Soviet Council of Ministers (made up of the Premier, the Defense Minister, interested industrial ministers, or their representatives) decided how much could be produced and at what time.

10. The following men were important in the Soviet Army Engineers as of mid-1941:

(a) Colonel (fnu) Leoshenia was Chief of the Engineers Faculty at the Frunze Military Academy. In 1946 he was made a Soviet Major General /equivalent to a US Army Brigadier General/ and now /1954/ he may well be of higher rank. At present /1954/ he is Professor of Military Engineering at the General Staff Academy. [redacted] Leoshenia graduated as a Sapper in about 1930 from the Engineering Faculty of the Military Technical Academy in Leningrad. This academy was disbanded in 1932 and was replaced by separate service academies. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

(b) Colonel (Engineering Officer First Class) (fnu) Ivanov, was the Chief of the Army Engineers Polygon in 1941. [redacted] 25X1

(c) Major General (fnu) Vorobiev, was Chief of the Army Engineers (Nachalnik Voenno Inzhinernoye Upravlenie). [redacted] 25X1 He finished the Military Engineering Academy in approximately 1934 [redacted] 25X1

(d) Lt General (fnu) Karbishev /equivalent to US Army Major General/ was considered the best engineering expert in the Soviet Army. He was not however a permanent member of the Technical Committee. Karbishev was Professor of Military Engineering at the General Staff Academy, was captured by the Germans at the outbreak of the Russo-German War, and was killed in 1945 while a prisoner of war in Austria.

(e) Lt General (fnu) Gundorov was Chief of the Military Engineering Academy. He was of Bulgar blood but a Soviet citizen. He had had some previous engineering education, [redacted] and in any case he was more a political than a military general. Since 1945 he has been head of the All-Slav Committee in Moscow [redacted] 25X1 25X1

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